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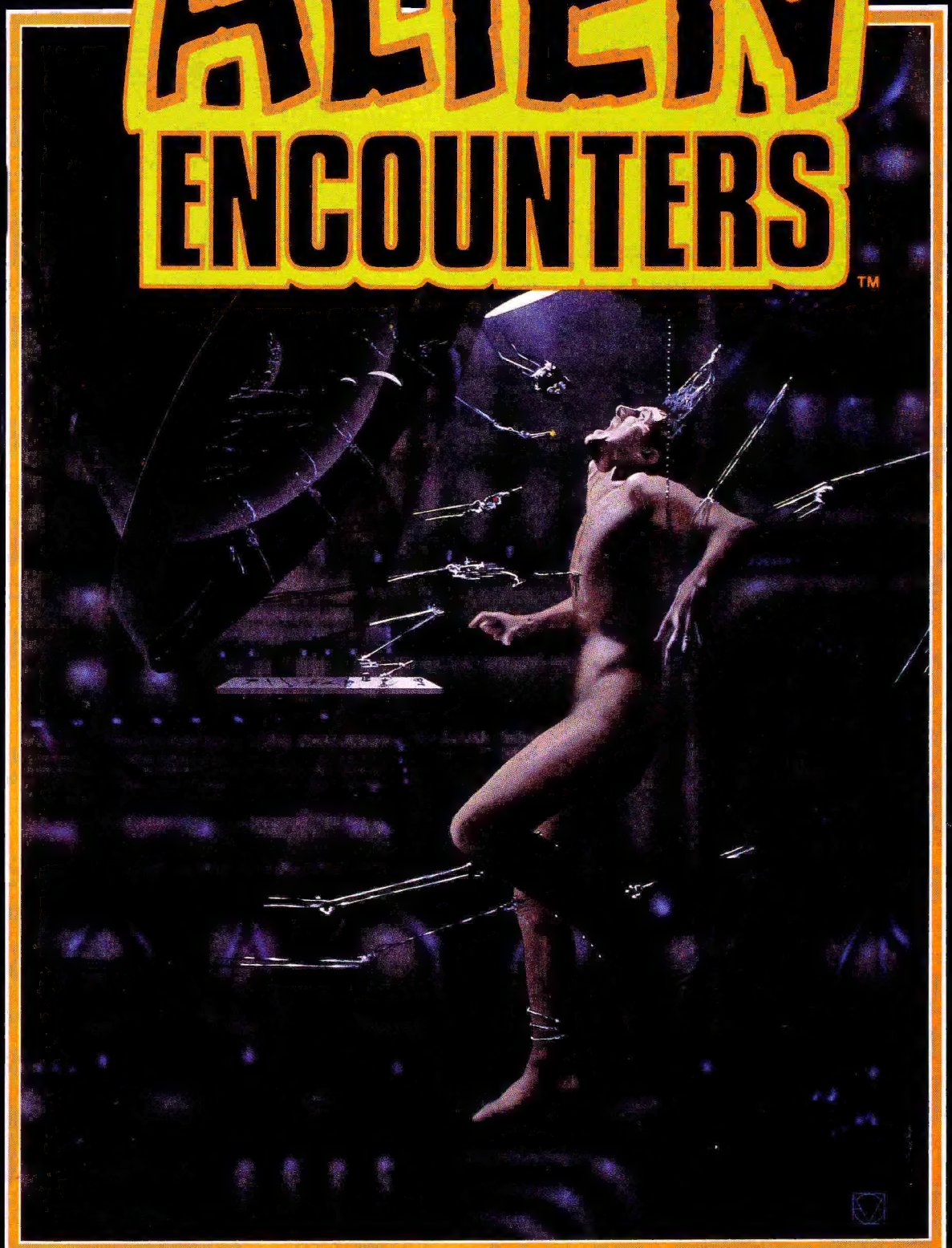
ALIEN ENCOUNTERS™



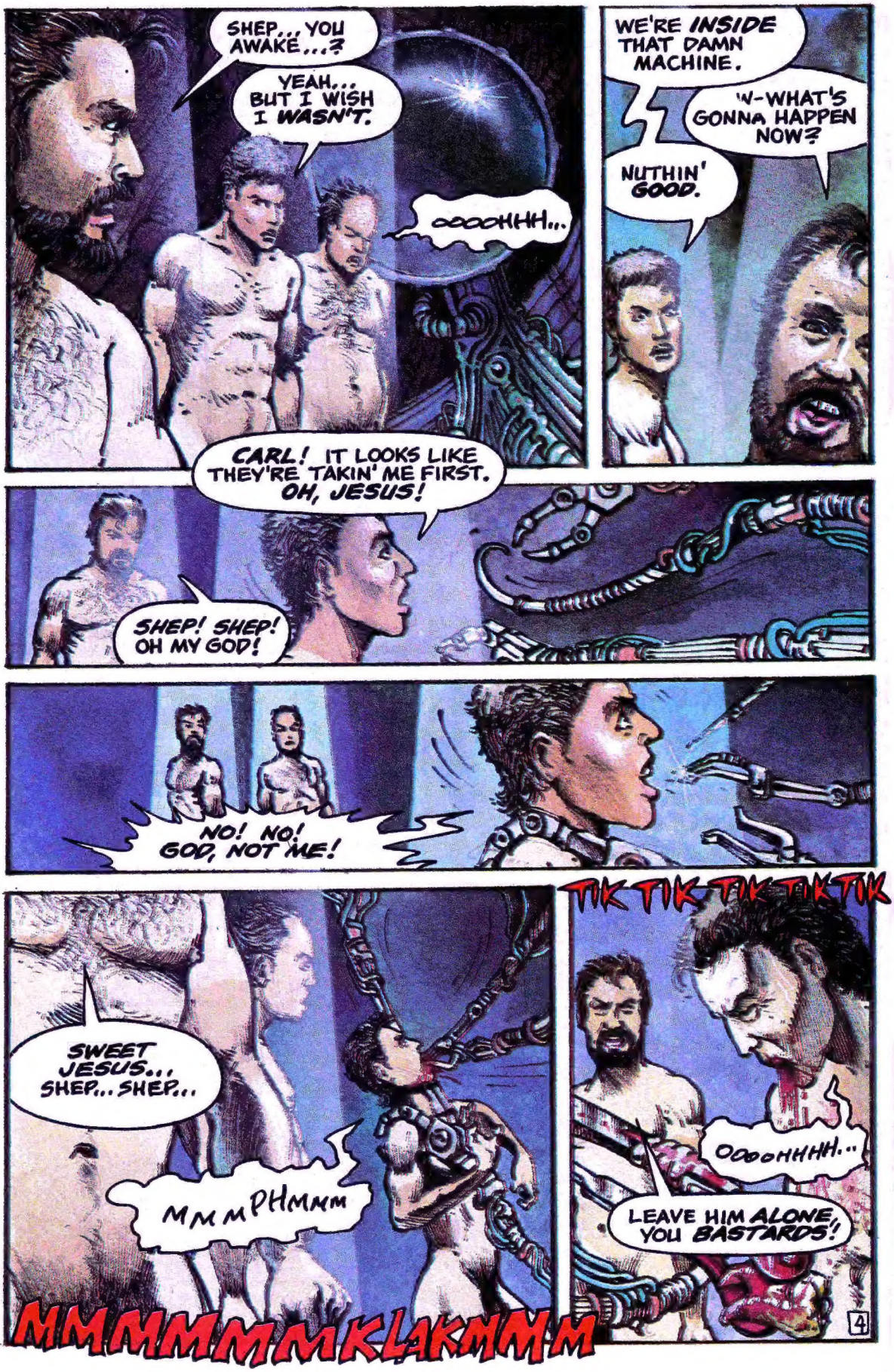
POTTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. FOLKS UP HERE CALL IT GOD'S COUNTRY. AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT THE BUMPER STICKERS SAY.
HE RUN THIS WAY -pant- ...I KNOW IT!
IF YOU WERE AS SURE OF YOUR SHOOTIN' AS YOU ARE OF YOUR OWN BULLSHIT, YOU'D A' HIT THAT BUCK.
TOLD YA I HIT HIM SQUARE. HE'S PROBABLY JUST OVER THIS RIDGE HERE.
I DAMN SURE HOPE HE IS. THIS HANGOVER'S ABOUT TO KILL ME.
TOO MUCH OF THAT IRON CITY LAST NIGHT, EH, SHEP?
DON'T REMIND ME. THAT BEER IS VILE.
JESUS GOD...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, LES? YOUR BUCK TURN OUT TO BE A DOE?
WOW!

A WORLD A'HURTIN'

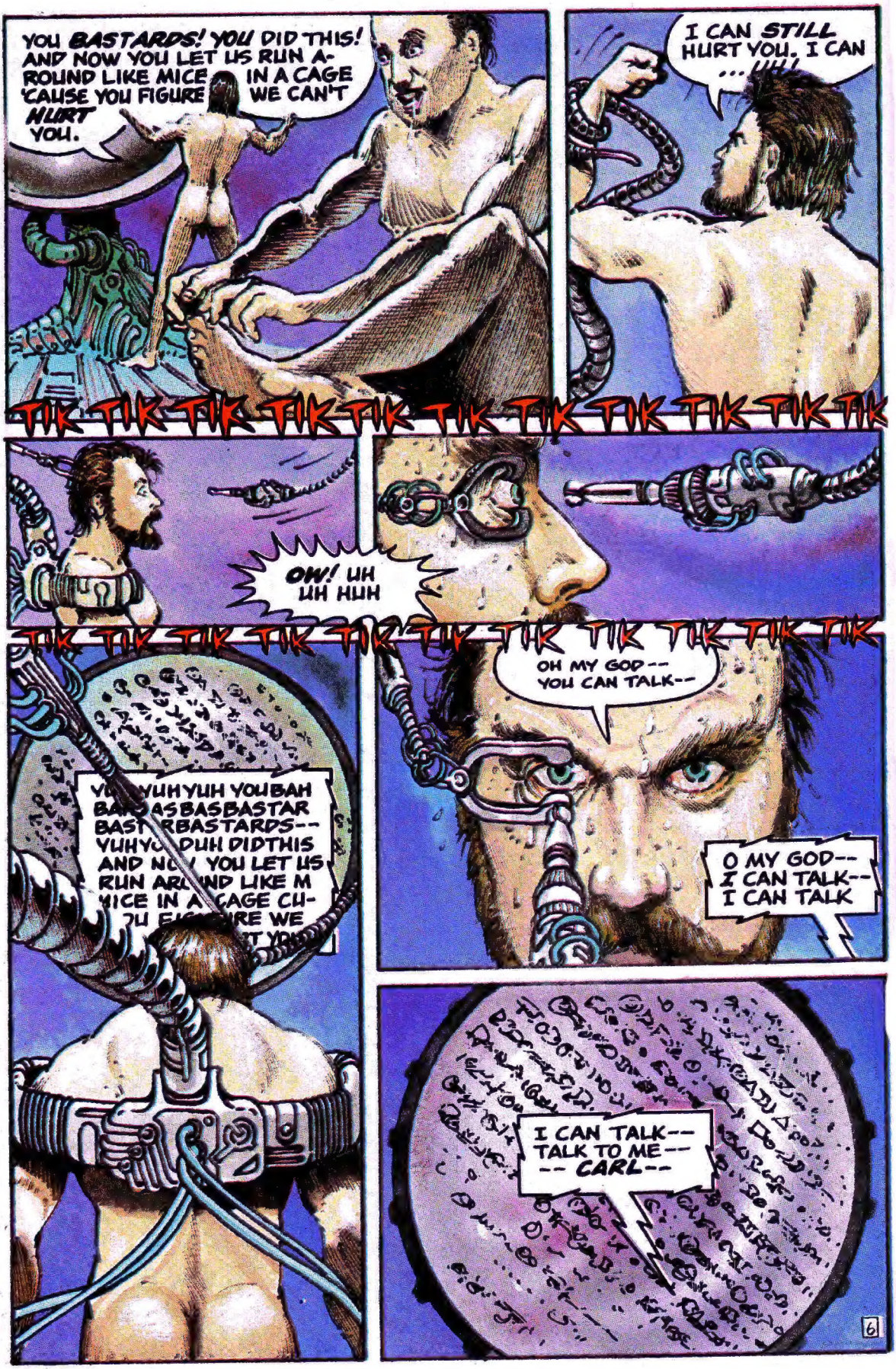
STORY- CHARLES DIXON ART/COLORS-PETER LEDGER LETTERS-B. PEARSON

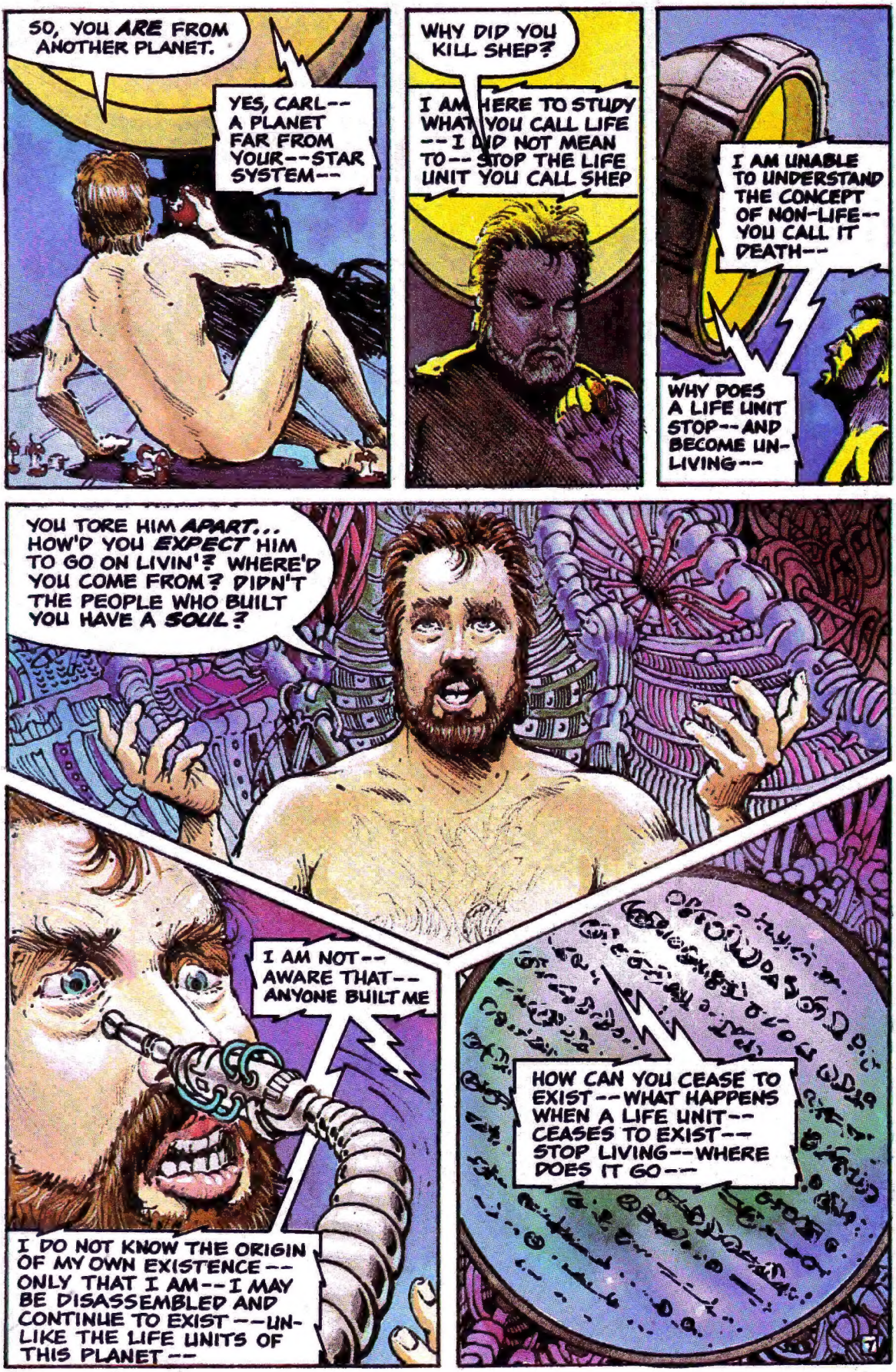
WHAT IS IT, SHEP?
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW? WE NEVER HUNTED THIS PART OF THE COUNTY BEFORE.
I READ THAT THERE'S PARTS OF THESE WOODS THAT NO ONE'S HUNTED SINCE THE INDIANS.
YOU FIGURE THE INDIANS BUILT THAT DEAL DOWN THERE, CARL?
LEDGER
2

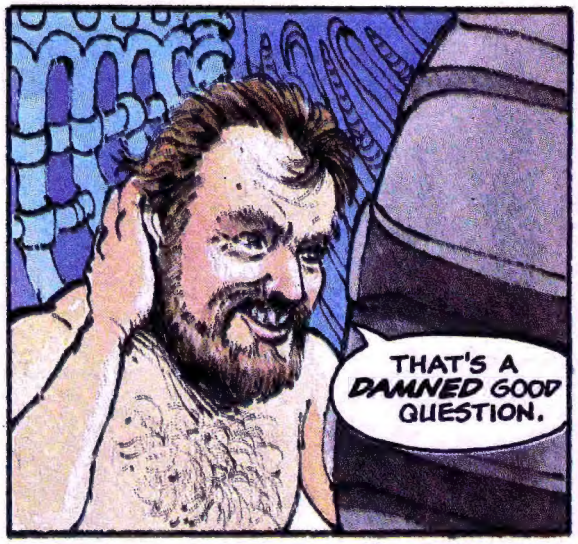
SURE. I READ ALL ABOUT THESE THINGS IN A MAGAZINE.
HEY, GUYS! COME LOOK AT THIS AWHILE.
MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
NO! OW! SHEP, HELP ME!
WHAT'S HE INTO NOW?
MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
MMMMMMMMMMMMMFASSK!
UH... WHERE... GOD... I'M... SO... SICK...
MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF A GOVERNMENT DEAL.
YEAH, THE MARTIAN GOVERNMENT...
YOU FIGURE IT'S FROM OUTER SPACE?
3

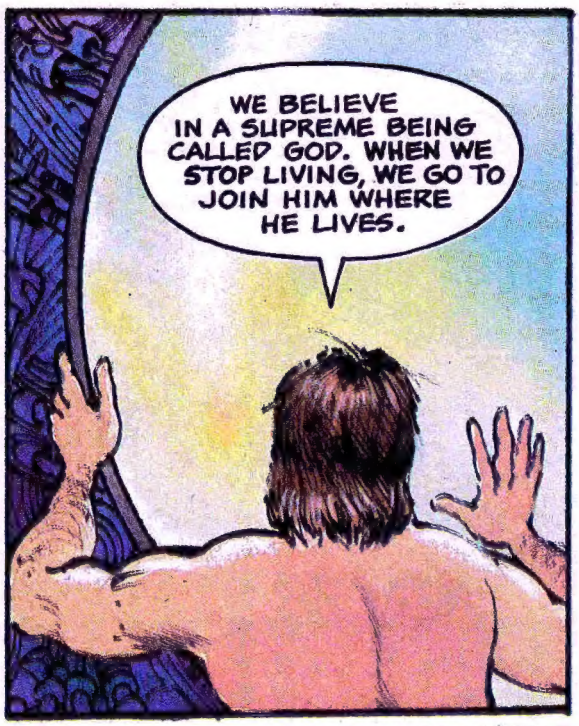

SHEP... YOU AWAKE...?
YEAH... BUT I WISH I WASN'T.
OOOOHHH...
WE'RE INSIDE THAT DAMN MACHINE.
W-WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN NOW?
NUTHIN' GOOD.
CARL! IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE TAKIN' ME FIRST. OH, JESUS!
SHEP! SHEP! OH MY GOD!
NO! NO! GOD, NOT ME!
TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
SWEET JESUS... SHEP... SHEP...
MMMPHMMM
OOOOHHHH...
LEAVE HIM ALONE, YOU BASTARDS!
MMMMMMKLAKMMM
4

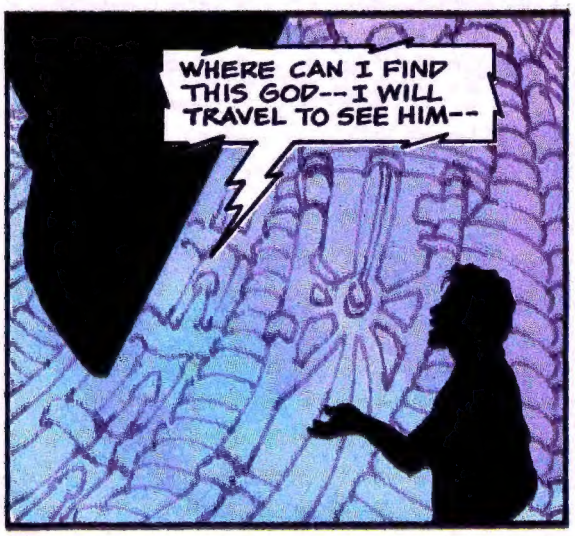
TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
MAMA... MAMA...
UH UH HUH UH UH HUH HUH UH UH
SHHKT KLAK SHKKT SHK
AAAAAHHHH!!
TIK TIK TIK TIK
NOOO NOOO
OOOO

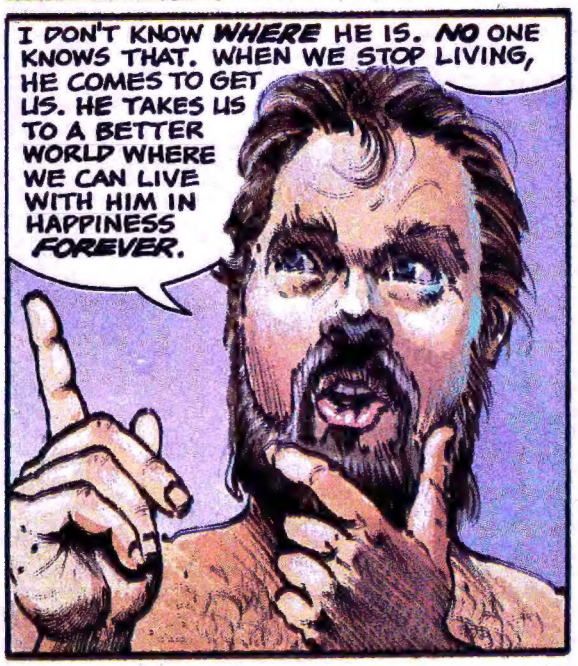

YOU BASTARDS! YOU DID THIS! AND NOW YOU LET US RUN A-ROUND LIKE MICE IN A CAGE 'CAUSE YOU FIGURE WE CAN'T HURT YOU.
I CAN STILL HURT YOU. I CAN ... UH!
TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
OW! UH UH HUH
TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
OH MY GOD-- YOU CAN TALK--
O MY GOD-- I CAN TALK-- I CAN TALK
I CAN TALK-- TALK TO ME-- -- CARL--

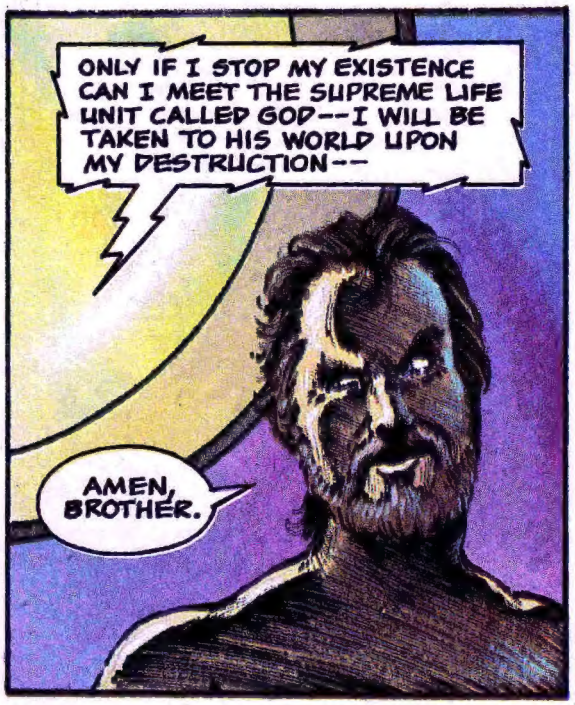

SO, YOU ARE FROM ANOTHER PLANET.
YES, CARL-- A PLANET FAR FROM YOUR--STAR SYSTEM--
WHY DID YOU KILL SHEP?
I AM HERE TO STUDY WHAT YOU CALL LIFE --I DID NOT MEAN TO-- STOP THE LIFE UNIT YOU CALL SHEP
I AM UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF NON-LIFE-- YOU CALL IT DEATH--
WHY DOES A LIFE UNIT STOP--AND BECOME UN-LIVING--
YOU TORE HIM APART... HOW'D YOU EXPECT HIM TO GO ON LIVIN'? WHERE'D YOU COME FROM? DIDN'T THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT YOU HAVE A SOUL?
I AM NOT-- AWARE THAT-- ANYONE BUILT ME
I DO NOT KNOW THE ORIGIN OF MY OWN EXISTENCE-- ONLY THAT I AM--I MAY BE DISASSEMBLED AND CONTINUE TO EXIST--UN-LIKE THE LIFE UNITS OF THIS PLANET--
HOW CAN YOU CEASE TO EXIST--WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A LIFE UNIT-- CEASES TO EXIST-- STOP LIVING--WHERE DOES IT GO--

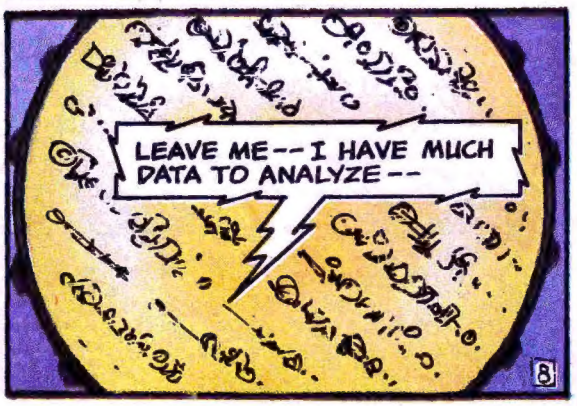

THAT'S A DAMNED GOOD QUESTION.

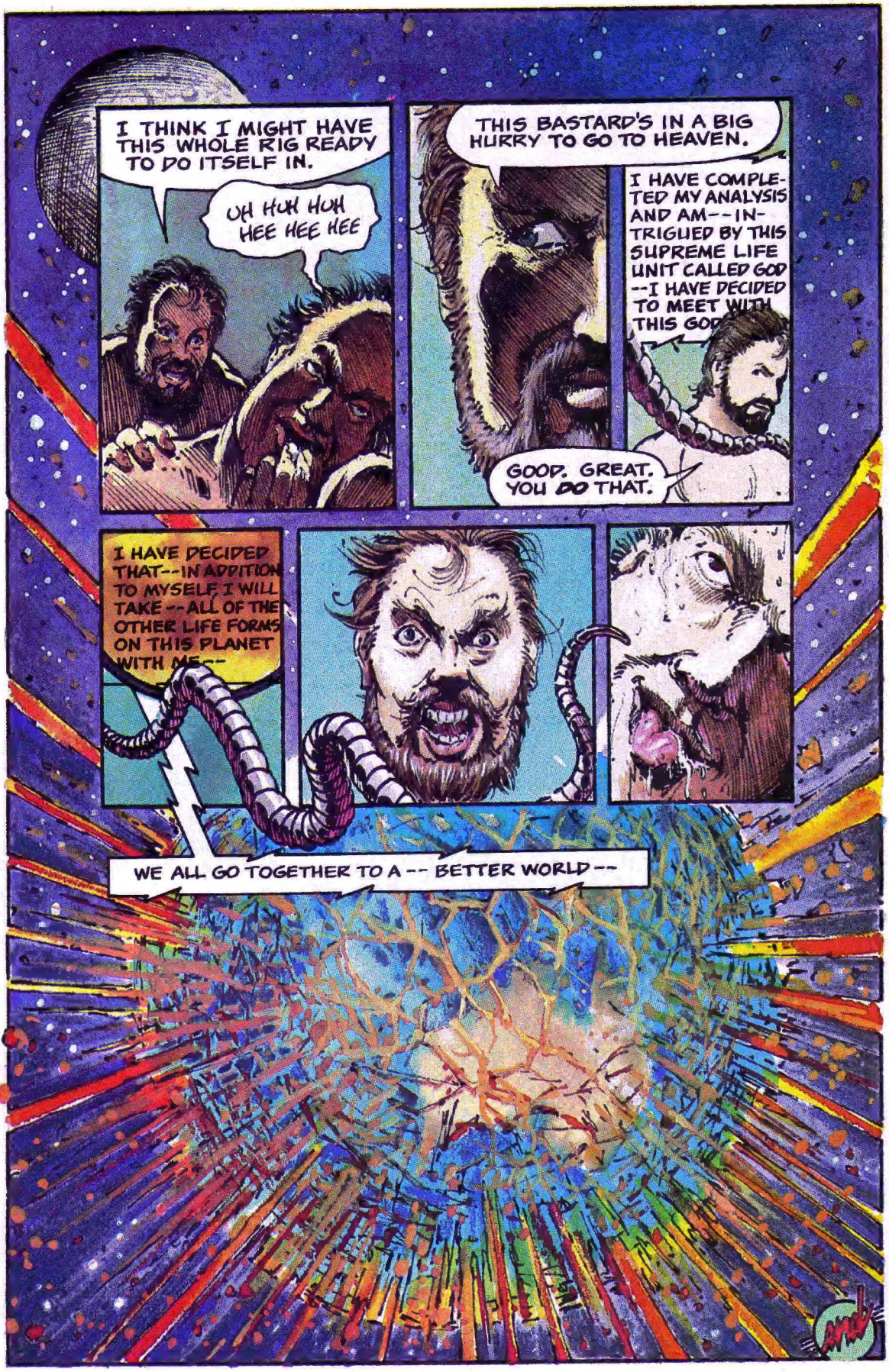

WE BELIEVE IN A SUPREME BEING CALLED GOD. WHEN WE STOP LIVING, WE GO TO JOIN HIM WHERE HE LIVES.


WHERE CAN I FIND THIS GOD--I WILL TRAVEL TO SEE HIM--


I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS. NO ONE KNOWS THAT. WHEN WE STOP LIVING, HE COMES TO GET US. HE TAKES US TO A BETTER WORLD WHERE WE CAN LIVE WITH HIM IN HAPPINESS FOREVER.


ONLY IF I STOP MY EXISTENCE CAN I MEET THE SUPREME LIFE UNIT CALLED GOD--I WILL BE TAKEN TO HIS WORLD UPON MY DESTRUCTION--
AMEN, BROTHER.


LEAVE ME--I HAVE MUCH DATA TO ANALYZE--


I THINK I MIGHT HAVE THIS WHOLE RIG READY TO DO ITSELF IN.
UH HUH HUH HEE HEE HEE
THIS BASTARD'S IN A BIG HURRY TO GO TO HEAVEN.
I HAVE COMPLETED MY ANALYSIS AND AM--INTRIGUED BY THIS SUPREME LIFE UNIT CALLED GOD --I HAVE DECIDED TO MEET WITH THIS GOD
GOOD. GREAT. YOU DO THAT.
I HAVE DECIDED THAT--IN ADDITION TO MYSELF I WILL TAKE --ALL OF THE OTHER LIFE FORMS ON THIS PLANET WITH ME--
WE ALL GO TOGETHER TO A -- BETTER WORLD --

WELL, ERN, YA GOTTA ADMIT ...
THAT WAS ONE SWEET LANDING!
SWEET MY ASS! WE'LL BE LUCKY TO LIFT OFFA THIS BALL!
OUCH! DADBURNIT! HAND ME THAT PHILLIPS-HEAD, WILLYA DAVE?
AHEM!
JOO HEAR SOMETHIN', ERNIE?
WHU...?
WELL I'LL BE ...
THE PARTY IN BOYS
DAVE'S DILEMMA

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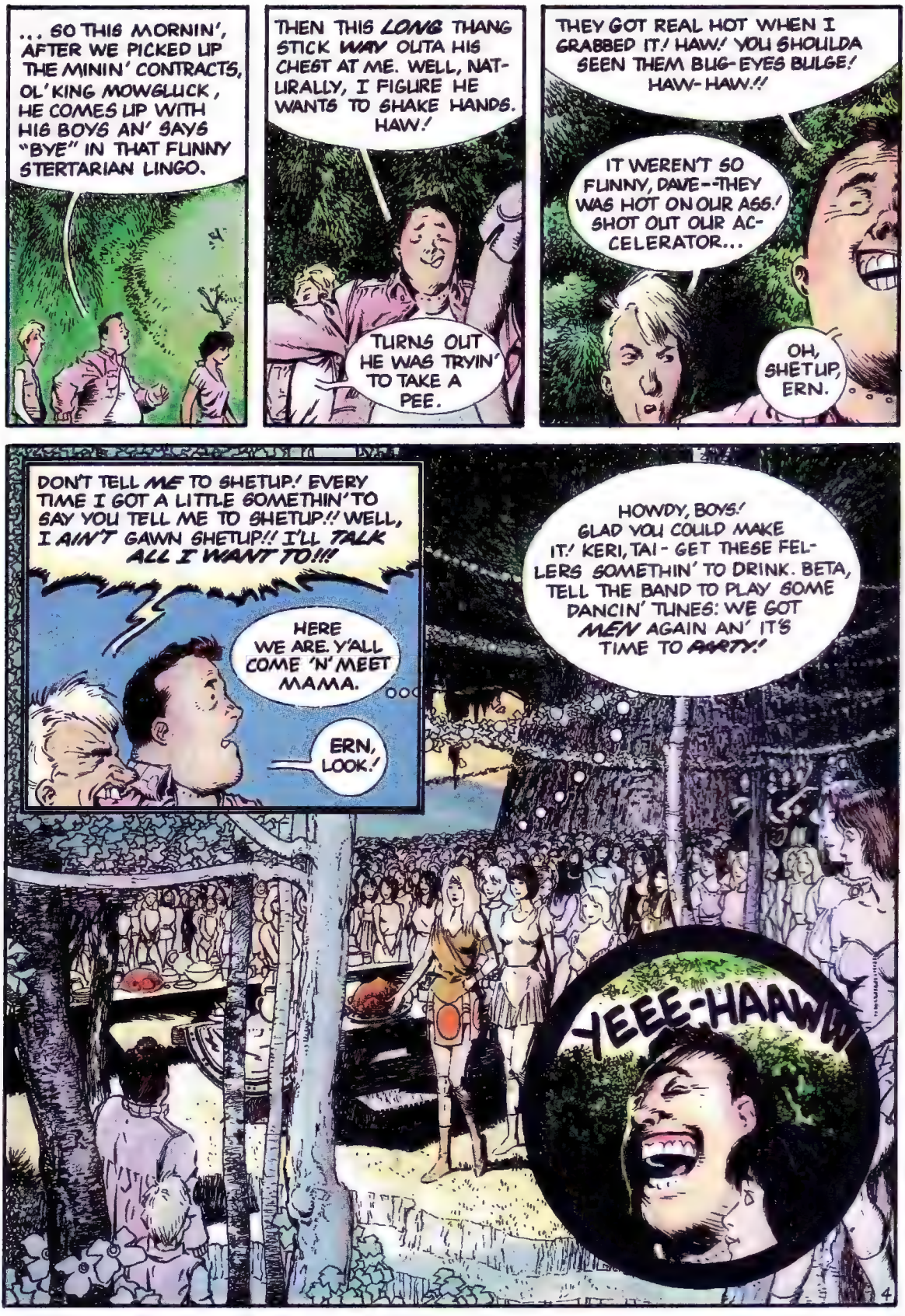
WRITIN' BY MARK KNEECE + SCOTT HAMPTON DRAWIN' BY SCOTT HAMPTON LETTERIN' BY TRACY HAMPTON
COLORS: STEVE OLIFF

THIS PLANET GOT POONTANG!!
CAREFUL, DAVE.
HOWDY.
WELL, HOWDY DO TO YOU, SWEET THANG!
MAMA TOLD ME TO COME AN' MEET YOU BOYS. WE'RE THROWIN' A PARTY AN' Y'ALL'RE IN-VITED!
WELL ... UH, THAT SOUNDS RIGHT NEIGHBORLY. UH... HOW COME Y'ALL...?
FOLLER ME!
WHOA! WAIT UP A MIN-NIT!!
HEY, DAVE! WAIT FER ME!
2

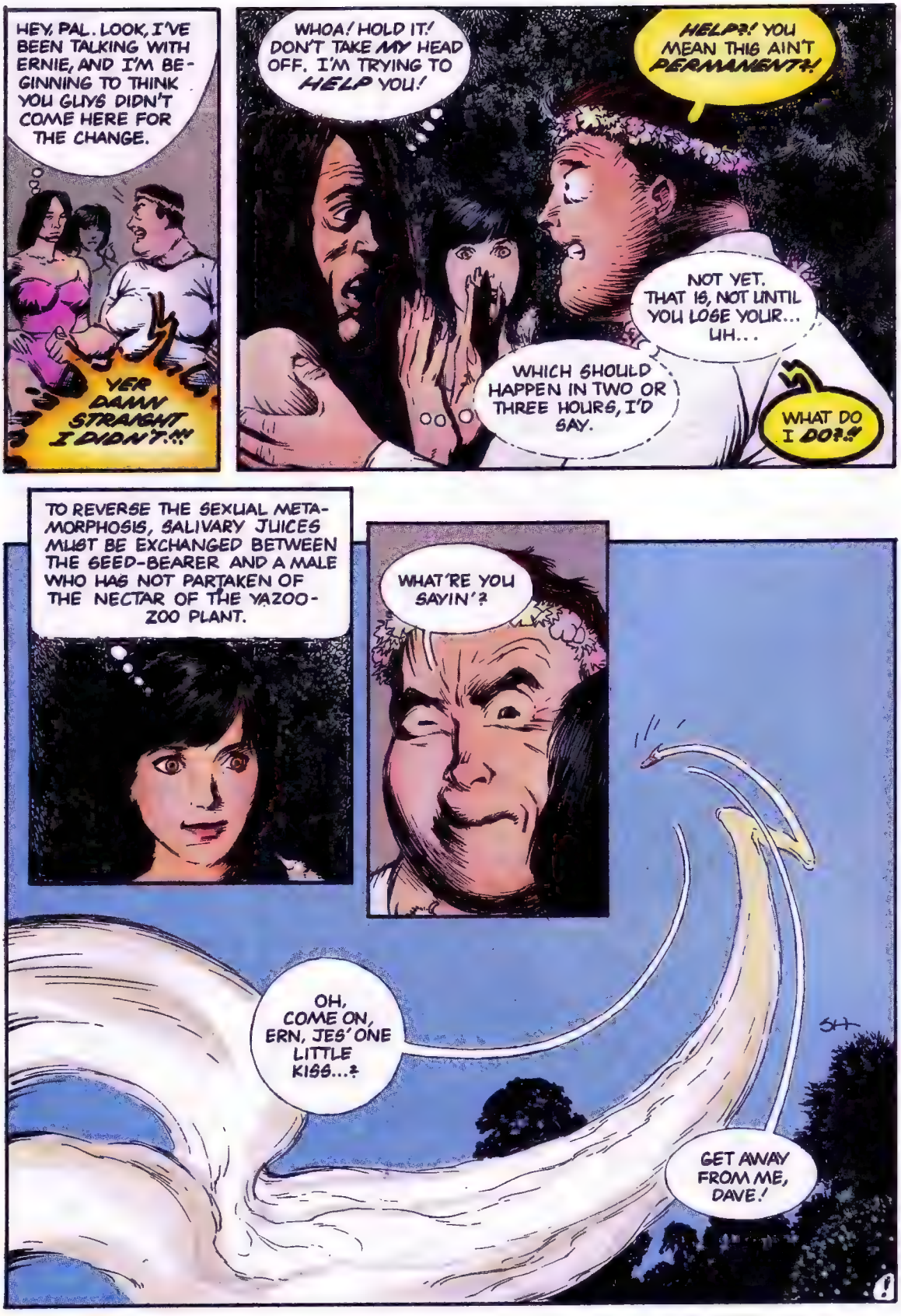
HOWD YOU KNOW WE WAS COMIN'?
WE SAW YER SHIP CRASH!
WELL, HOW COME YER LIPS DON'T MOVE WHEN YOU TALK?
WE DO BRAIN TALK!
HOLD UP, DAVE!
WAITA MINNIT NOW- JES... WAITA MINNIT!
WHATTA YOU WANT US FER?
MAKIN' BABIES!
:PANT!: HEY, DAVE! :WHEEZE!: WAIT UP! :PANT!:
COME ON!
MAN!: WHEEZE!: WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
ERNIE...
THIS GAWN BE SWEET!


... SO THIS MORNIN', AFTER WE PICKED UP THE MININ' CONTRACTS, OL' KING MOWGLUCK, HE COMES UP WITH HIS BOYS AN' SAYS "BYE" IN THAT FUNNY STERTARIAN LINGO.
THEN THIS LONG THANG STICK WAY OUTA HIS CHEST AT ME. WELL, NATURALLY, I FIGURE HE WANTS TO SHAKE HANDS. HAW!
TURNS OUT HE WAS TRYIN' TO TAKE A PEE.
THEY GOT REAL HOT WHEN I GRABBED IT! HAW! YOU SHOULDA SEEN THEM BUG-EYES BULGE! HAW-HAW!!
IT WEREN'T SO FUNNY, DAVE--THEY WAS HOT ON OUR ASS! SHOT OUT OUR ACCELERATOR...
OH, SHETUP, ERN.
DON'T TELL ME TO SHETUP! EVERY TIME I GOT A LITTLE SOMETHIN' TO SAY YOU TELL ME TO SHETUP!! WELL, I AIN'T GAWN SHETUP!! I'LL TALK ALL I WANT TO!!!
HERE WE ARE. Y'ALL COME 'N' MEET MAMA.
ERN, LOOK!
HOWDY, BOYS! GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT! KERI, TAI - GET THESE FELLERS SOMETHIN' TO DRINK. BETA, TELL THE BAND TO PLAY SOME DANCIN' TUNES: WE GOT MEN AGAIN AN' IT'S TIME TO PARTY!
YEEE-HAAW!!
4

SO WHAT YER SAYIN' IS, SINCE YOU AIN'T GOT NO MEN, YOU JES WAIT 'TIL SOME OF OUR BOYS CRASH HERE AND THEN YOU BRING 'EM IN TO STUD. HAW! THAT'S GREAT!
BLIT, WHAT ABOUT YER MAMA? SHE DON'T LOOK NO OLDER'N YOU.
WE ALL STOP GROWING AT EIGHTEEN. WE CALL HER MA-MA 'CAUSE SHE'S THE OLDEST.
SHE'S OVER 5000.
MAMA'S FIRST IN LINE FOR THE MATING RITUAL.
HOT DIGGITY DAMN! NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! WHEN DO WE GET START-ED?
THE LARGE OUTWORLDER'S BEEN DRINKING ALL NIGHT. HE'S NEARLY SAT-URATED.
YES, HE'S COMING ALONG NICELY. AND HAVE YOU NOTICED, MARA, HIS SEXUAL ORGAN...?
MY GOD, HOW COULD YOU MISS IT? I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH DEXTER-ITY!
I KNOW. HERE'S HOPING IT'S FERTILE AS WELL.
I TELL YA, DAVE, I DON' LIKE IT. IT JES AIN'T NATURAL FER GALS LIKE THIS HERE TO BE SO FRIENDLY.
I'M TIRED OF YER JAW-JACKIN', ERNIE. WHY DON' YA JES EASE UP? HERE--TAKE A SWIG OF THIS.
I DON' WANT NONE OF THAT JOY-JUICE! I JES WANNA GET OUTTA HERE!
HE AIN'T REALLY NO FAG. HE JES ACT LIKE ONE SOME-TIMES.

DRINK UP, COWBOY.
I DON'T WANT NO DRINK.
AND I DON'T WANT NO...
...!
LOOK, PAL -- IF YOU DON'T GET STARTED SOON, YOU'RE GONNA MISS ALL THE ACTION.
YOUR BUDDY'S BEEN DRINKING THE STUFF ALL NIGHT, AND HE'S GONNA BE CHANGING SOON. NOW, IF I WERE YOU...
CHANGE? WHAT CHANGE?
DON'T GIMME THAT. YOU KNOW WHAT CHANGE. THE CHANGE!
OOOH
WELL, ERNIE, I SEE YOU'VE MET CAPTAIN JOE.
CAPTAIN?
JOSEPH D'ANGELO. HAD MY OWN STARSHIP ONCE. BUT THAT WAS BEFORE I CAME HERE FOR THE CHANGE. NOW THEY CALL ME JOANNA.
OOO
DAVE
YAY!
HOOORAY!
JOY! JOY!
BLOOP! BLOIP!
WHAT THE HELL...?
OH MY GOSH! HE'S CHANGING! QUICKLY, CALL MOTHER!
6

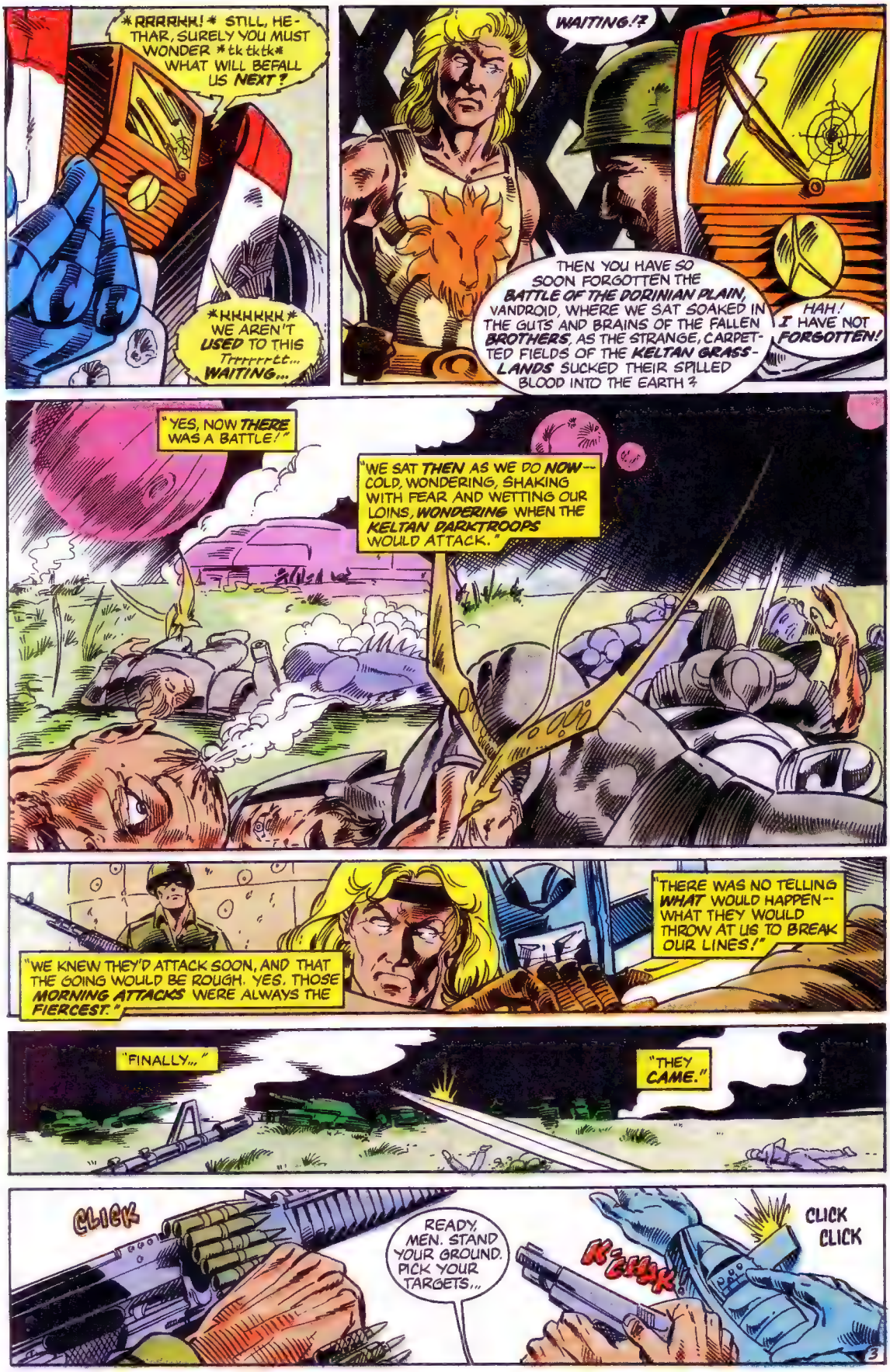
DON'T DRINK, DAVE! WHAT-EVER YOU DO, DON'T DRINK!
AS FROM THE DAWN OF OUR RACE, THE SEED MUST BE BORN OF ONE WHO IS NEITHER MAN NOR WOMAN, BUT BOTH!
I GOT TITS!!
AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN, SO SHALL THE SEED BE PASSED...
FROM MOUTH TO MOUTH!
MMPHH!
DAVE, DON'T DRINK THAT...
... STUFF.
IT'S IN THE SPIT, YOU SEE.
THE SEED'S A BY-PRODUCT OF THE CHANGING PROCESS BUT IT DIES AS SOON AS THE CHANGE IS COMPLETED; THAT'S WHY THE SEXUAL CEREMONY BEGINS THE INSTANT THE BREASTS APPEAR.
BUT, DON'T SWEAT IT, ERN, MY MAN. YOUR BUDDY WASN'T AS FERTILE AS WE'D HOPED. YOU'LL GET YOUR TURN.
YAAAAAAAAAAA
?


HEY, PAL. LOOK, I'VE BEEN TALKING WITH ERNIE, AND I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU GUYS DIDN'T COME HERE FOR THE CHANGE.
YER DAMN STRAIGHT I DIDN'T.!!!
WHOA! HOLD IT! DON'T TAKE MY HEAD OFF. I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU!
HELP?! YOU MEAN THIS AIN'T PERMANENT?!
NOT YET. THAT IS, NOT UNTIL YOU LOSE YOUR... UH...
WHICH SHOULD HAPPEN IN TWO OR THREE HOURS, I'D SAY.
WHAT DO I DO?!
TO REVERSE THE SEXUAL METAMORPHOSIS, SALIVARY JUICES MUST BE EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE SEED-BEARER AND A MALE WHO HAS NOT PARTAKEN OF THE NECTAR OF THE YAZOO-ZOO PLANT.
WHAT'RE YOU SAYIN'?
OH, COME ON, ERN, JES' ONE LITTLE KISS...?
GET AWAY FROM ME, DAVE!

OLD SOLDIERS fade away
THEY ARE WARRIORS, THE VETERANS OF A THOUSAND BLOODY WARS, IN A THOUSAND STRANGE AND DANGEROUS GALAXIES.
THEY ARE THE ELITE--THE FAVORITE SHOCK TROOPS OF AN EMPIRE, UPON WHOM THEIR GREAT AND MAJESTIC LORD EMPORER ONCE SMILED.
BUT THE WAR IS OVER. THEY'VE FOUGHT THEIR LAST BATTLE.
THEY ARE CREATURES OF WAR, WHO AREN'T NEEDED ANYMORE.
TIMOTHY TRUMAN-SCRIPT KARL WALLER-PENCILS
KIM DeMULDER-INKS KURT HATHAWAY-LETTERS
MARCUS DAVID-COLOURS

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! RETIRED, JUST LIKE THAT! NO WARNING--NOT EVEN SO MUCH AS A "THANK YOU" FROM OUR PRECIOUS LITTLE EMPEROR!
I'D LIKE TO WRING HIS SCRAWNY--
--URRRKK!--
YOU WILL NOT SPEAK OF THE EMPEROR IN SUCH TONES, SOLDIER, I WILL NOT HAVE IT!
--akk--
C'MON ...HE-THAR. J-JUST--kkk --LETTING OFF... SOME STEAM IS ALL...
HE'S RIGHT, HE-THAR! ALL WE'VE EVER KNOWN IS BATTLE. IT'S ALL WE'RE GOOD FOR! AND NOW WE'RE EXPECTED TO JUST SIT HERE LIKE BUSTED MACHINES!
NONETHELESS, PARABOT, WE SHALL KEEP OUR HONOR IN THIS THING.
YEAH. WHY NOT? IT'S ALL THEY LEFT US.
WH-WHAT'LL WE DO NOW? ;Sob;
WE DO AS WE ARE TOLD--AS WE ALWAYS HAVE. WE WAIT, KNOWING THAT WE HAVE GIVEN OUR BEST TO THE EMPIRE.
WE HAVE DONE WHAT WE WERE CREATED TO DO. WE WERE TAKEN FROM THE VATS, ARMED AND SOLD TO DO WAR.
I AM CONTENT WITH THAT. I WILL TAKE WHAT COMES NEXT AS I TOOK WHAT CAME BEFORE--WITH HONOR!
2

"KELTANS -- THE MOST FEARED CREATURES IN THE UNIVERSE, A RAMPAGING HORDE THAT HAD ENGULFED WORLDS AND HAD CRUSHED ENTIRE SOCIETIES."
"THE KELTANS -- OUR BLOOD ENEMIES!!"
FIRE!
PJW PJW
OH, DEAR, OH, DEAR...
WOOMPA WOOMPA
UUUNNGHH...
WAM
WOOM!
VIP VIP VIP
HEH-HEH-HEH! EAT THAT, YOU KELTAN PINHEADS
HA-HAHAHA-HA!
GUYJO! KEEP YOUR HEAD! WE AREN'T DONE HERE YET!
OH, DEAR... OH, DEAR...
TTTTKKK! LOOK! WHAT'S THAT?!
STINKIN', BLOODY, KELTAN COWARDS..!
...PTEROBOTS! THEY'RE USIN' STINKIN', BLOODY PTEROBOTS!
4


RRRRHK! STILL, HE-THAR, SURELY YOU MUST WONDER *tk tk tk* WHAT WILL BEFALL US NEXT?
KHHHKK WE AREN'T USED TO THIS Trrrrrrtt... WAITING...
WAITING!?
THEN YOU HAVE SO SOON FORGOTTEN THE BATTLE OF THE DORINIAN PLAIN, VANDROID, WHERE WE SAT SOAKED IN THE GUTS AND BRAINS OF THE FALLEN BROTHERS, AS THE STRANGE, CARPETED FIELDS OF THE KELTAN GRASSLANDS SUCKED THEIR SPILLED BLOOD INTO THE EARTH?
HAH! I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN!
"YES, NOW THERE WAS A BATTLE!"
"WE SAT THEN AS WE DO NOW -- COLD, WONDERING, SHAKING WITH FEAR AND WETTING OUR LOINS, WONDERING WHEN THE KELTAN DARKTROOPS WOULD ATTACK."
"WE KNEW THEY'D ATTACK SOON, AND THAT THE GOING WOULD BE ROUGH. YES. THOSE MORNING ATTACKS WERE ALWAYS THE FIERCEST."
"THERE WAS NO TELLING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN -- WHAT THEY WOULD THROW AT US TO BREAK OUR LINES!"
"FINALLY..."
"THEY CAME."
CLICK
READY, MEN. STAND YOUR GROUND. PICK YOUR TARGETS...
KA-CHAK!
CLICK CLICK
3

STAND FAST, HEROES OF THE GUARD!
FOR THE EMPEROR--AND THE EMPIRE!
OH, MY... OHMYOHMY OHMY!
POOM
BOOM
MOOM
MMOOMP
WE'VE BEATEN THEM! CRRKK!
HOLD YOUR LINE! THEY'RE NOT FINISHED WITH US!
"THEN, ALL FELL SILENT..."
OH, MY! OH, DEAR! W-WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'LL DO...?
BE QUIET, GUYJO! LISTEN...
HEY, SARGE... IT'S AWFUL QUIET OUT THERE. A LITTLE TOO--
HEAR THAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HE-THAR? I DON'T HEAR--
RD JUMMM
WAIT! YES, THERE IT IS!!
MY GOD! I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D DO IT...!
THE BASTARDS!
Y-YOU MEAN... THEY...
OH, MY! OH, DEAR OH, DEAR OH, DEAR...
YES, THEY'VE BROUGHT OUT...

THE FARM ANIMALS!!
MOOOO
MOOOOO
LET 'EM HAVE IT!!
CHUKKA CHUKKA CHUKKA
FIGHT! FIGHT FOR THE EMPIRE!
BLAH
BAM
KOCKEREEKEE...
SNORT
MOOOOO
WE--ARE--POWER!
CHOOM CHOOM
AAAKKK! THERE'S--JUST --TOO--MANY-- OF--THEM-- uhhnh!
DON'T GIVE UP, MY FRIENDS!
HKKTT! IT'S NO USE, SIR! THEY HAVE US!
I GUESS-- THIS IS IT, GUYS...

NO, NOT YET, MY FRIENDS. WE HAVE...
... A SAVIOR!
"YES-- SNUGGUMS!"
"SNUGGUMS: LAST OF THE ONCE-MIGHTY RACE OF BENEVOLENT BRUINS, A PASSIVE, KINDLY RACE TURNED TO DUST BY THE EVIL KELTAN ADVANCE."
"I KNOW OF NO SIGHT IN THIS WONDROUS UNIVERSE QUITE SO FRIGHTENING..."
"...AS OUR SNUGGUMS ENRAGED."
"SNUGGUMS: THE SACCHARIN CUTEY, WHO, WHEN ENRAGED, TURNS INTO 30 BILLION TONS OF SLASHING, STRIKING RAW WAR BEAR!"
SPA-LATT!
no...
"AT LAST, IT WAS OVER..."

YEAH. FRAGGIN' 'A.
YEAH. THAT WAS A GOOD ONE.
:Sniff:
ALL RIGHT, YOU HEROES. TIME TO SHUT DOWN. LET TOMORROW TAKE CARE OF TOMORROW.
YEAH.
TKK ZTT! AFFIRMATIVE.
MR. HE-THAR? COULD YOU TELL US ANOTHER STORY?
JUST GO TO SLEEP, SNUGGUMS, HUH?
JUST GET SOME SLEEP...
O.K.
"AND NOW WE RESTED, THE ENEMY IN THEIR BOXES, AND WE IN OURS."
"FORGOTTEN HEROES..."
50¢ each
...FORGOTTEN GAMES.
Yard Sale HERE Today
Yard Sale Here Today
"BUT IN OTHER BATTLEFIELDS, ON OTHER WORLDS, THERE ARE ALWAYS NEW EVILS TO COMBAT, NEW PLANETS TO CONQUER..."
"...AND NEW EMPERORS TO SERVE..."
END

Story, art and color by Steve Oliff

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